CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 1987 AT 9:00 A.M.
IN BC-110, SGW CAMPUS

ATTENDANCE:

Present were:

C.H. Langford (Chair), P. Albert, P. Fazio, C. Ross, P. Shizgal, C.Y. Suen, M. Szabo, F.R. Whyte, A.J. Williams, S. Bulzan (Secretary)

Absent with regrets:

F. Bird

Absent:

J. Doukas, R. Parker, M.N.S. Swamy

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SRC-87-09-03-D17	PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION OVERHEADS
SRC-87-09-03-D18	THE CONCORDIA SIGNAL PROCESSING AND COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CENTRE (CONSIPCOM); THE CONCORDIA PATTERN RECOGNITION AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH CENTRE (CONPARMI).
SRC-87-09-03-D19	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF RESEARCH CENTRES (one page extract from 11 June SRC Meeting)
SRC-87-09-03-D20	GOVERNMENT TAX AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
SRC-87-09-03-D21	MATCHING FUNDS POLICY - PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY
SRC-87-09-03-D22	1986-87 SUMMARY OF RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED TO CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS
SRC-87-09-03-D23	CASA AND GENERAL RESEARCH GRANTS - 1987-88

.../2

Dr. C.H. Langford occupied the Chair.

I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 It was moved and unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Senate Research Committee meeting of 11 June 1987 be approved.

II. CHAIR'S REMARKS

A/ Report on Status of "Graduate Students vs. Graduate Assistantships"

2.1 The Chair discussed the issue of Graduate Students vs. Graduate Assistantships. Students will be paid bursaries from research grants rather than being remunerated as "employees". This will allow a $500,00 initial tax exemption.

B/ Touche-Ross Seminar

2.1 The Chair mentioned that the Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Finance together with the University's accountants (Touche/Ross) put together a document (SRC-87-09-03-D20) which discusses the structure of the new Québec government tax initiatives as well as providing a survey of Federal and Provincial governmental assistance programs.

C/ October Invitation to Librarians

2.1 The possibility of inviting librarians to an early Senate Research Committee meeting was discussed. It was agreed that an October invitation would be made to the library.

D/ Rapport d'évaluation des programmes du fonds FCAR

2.1 The Chair discussed the above document briefly. He stated that a response to this document must be prepared by the Senate Research Committee.

.../3

2.2 It was decided that the following three areas of the FCAR document would be looked at specifically:

a) équipes et séminaires;
b) centres de recherche;
c) programme de bourses.

The above three sections of the document will be circulated to the Committee. The complete document will be available for consultation in the Associate Vice-Rector's Office.

2.3 A preliminary general response of Concordia's participation in this program will be prepared by the Chair and will be circulated to the Committee.

E/ Director of Research Services - A.J. Williams

2.1 Documents SRC-87-09-03-D20, D21, D22 and D23 were distributed to the Committee and were discussed briefly. Ms. Williams noted an 11,5% increase in funding over the past year. It was also mentioned that in the first quarter results of 1987-88, there has been an approximate one million dollar decrease in overall funding.

2.2 The joint UQAM-R&D-CONCORDIA proposal to the National Research Council has not yet been approved, although NRC's response has been optimistic.

2.3 The research profiles for the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science has been completed. It has been sent to the various members of the faculty for their review.

F/ Professional Consultation Overheads

2.1 The Chair referred to document SRC-87-09-03-D17. Ecole Polytechnique's overhead policies regarding honoraria and consulting fees paid to faculty members was discussed.

2.2 The Chair raised the question of whether professional consulting fees should be distinguished from other fees.

2.3 The Chair mentioned three ways in which individuals could benefit from contracting using University services:

a) through delivery of incentives to units that generate overhead funds;
b) by making it easier for faculty members to take advantage of university administrative services;
c) through recognition of research for promotion, merit and tenure.

2.4 The Chair will present to the Committee a study dealing with internal expenditures related to research.

2.5 The Committee was asked whether it would be of use to have consulting as a different activity and thus have a reduced overhead rate.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONCORDIA PATTERN RECOGNITION AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH CENTRE, AND THE CONCORDIA SIGNAL PROCESSING AND COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CENTRE (supported by documents SRC-87-09-03-D18 and D19).

3.1 The criteria for the establishment of a Research Centre (proposed at the Senate Research Committee Meeting of 11 June 1987) were discussed and reviewed with regard to the two proposals before the Committee.

3.2 The question of criteria for evaluating Research Centres was discussed at length and it was decided that the Committee would have to look at this issue on two separate levels:

a) establishing criteria for new Centres;
b) reviewing the status of present Centres.

The topic `Performance Review of Existing Centres' will be added to the Agenda of the next meeting.

3.3 The criteria for evaluation of Research Centres (document SRC-87-09-03-D19) was revised by the Committee as follows:

a) The mission of the Centre - scientific and pedagogical components (the whole must be greater than the sum of parts);

b) The credibility of the group - the team's membership and structure;

c) The group's history of performance (individual and as a group);

d) The value to the University including the plans for development and review;

e) The effectiveness of administrative arrangements;

f) The financial implications.

3.4 Dr. C.Y. Suen discussed the proposal of the Concordia Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence Research Centre.

3.5 It was decided by the Committee that the administrative structure of the Centre should be discussed in the proposal. Dr. Suen agreed to submit a separate clarification to the Chair prior to the Senate Steering Committee meeting of 8 September 1987.

3.6 It was agreed that a draft motion regarding the two proposals would be circulated to the Committee and edited in time for the Steering Committee meeting. The Committee also recommended that names of the two Centres be reviewed to ensure appropriate French versions and acronyms.

3.7 The following memo was sent to the Senate Steering Committee:

"The Senate Research Committee is in the process of establishing guidelines for recognition of Research Centres. The situation is still evolving, but the accompanying proposals have arrived at a point where action is required.

.../6

In the light of the information which has, up to now, been requested of groups proposing Centres, the Research Committee recommends to Senate the recognition of the Concordia Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence Research Centre and the Concordia Signal Processing and Communications Research Centre as Research Centres subject to the following conditions:

1) The Dean of Engineering and Computer Science will provide Senate with an analysis of financial implications including infrastructure costs and anticipated revenue.

2) The Centre's performance be reviewed after three years of operations."

3.8 The following clarification was submitted by Dr. Suen to the Chair with regard to the Concordia Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence Research Centre:

"At the beginning, the administrative structure of the Centre will consist of a director and the associated researchers, staff, and students. The director will be responsible for the overall administrative and personnel duties within the Centre, fund raising, and the interaction with outside. As the Centre becomes better established in one to two years time, it will consider an appropriate organizational structure for administration, e.g. appointment of a deputy director, and individuals responsible for different functions and projects, seminars and conferences, visiting scientists, industrial experts, and student affairs."

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 A suggestion was made for future meetings to begin at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. In future, meetings will be scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.